

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (canceled)

2. (original) A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions, wherein said ideas include needs and requirements of said inventions; and

(b) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to the database to transfer property rights to inventions derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas, wherein said transfer is for contingent economic gain.

3. (original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein step (b) is performed by using at least one computer.

Claims 4-31 (canceled)

32. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(e) systematically entering into said database all ideas contributed for entry into said database.

Claims 33 and 34 (canceled)

35. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(e) systematically entering into said database ideas contributed for entry into said

database without requiring any contributor of said ideas to have subject matter expertise as a prerequisite for entry of said contributions.

Claims 36-38 (canceled)

39. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(e) requiring persons to enter into a membership as a prerequisite for viewing a portion of said database containing at least some of said accumulated ideas.

40. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(e) requiring contributors of ideas for prospective entry into said database to enter into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas for entry into said database.

41. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(e) facilitating preparation and/or filing of patent applications for at least some inventions derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas.

42. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(e) auctioning at least some right under the patent rights to at least some inventions derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas.

43. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(e) recording a time of receipt of each idea contributed for entry into said database.

44. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(e) recording a time of publication in said database of each accumulated idea.

45. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(e) recording a time of first public viewing from said database of each accumulated idea.

46. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(d) providing contingent contractual rights to at least some inventions derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas.

47. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(d) enabling ideas contributed to said database to be integrated within said database to thereby facilitate derivation of inventions from said integrated ideas.

48. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(c) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to permit immediate public disclosure of said ideas contributed by said contributors.

Claims 49-66 (canceled)

67. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 2, wherein each step is performed systematically.

Claim 68 (canceled)

69. (original) A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions, wherein said ideas include needs and requirements of said inventions; and

(b) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to the database to transfer property rights to inventions derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas, wherein said transfer is for contingent economic gain.

Claims 70-76 (canceled)

77. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 40, wherein each step is performed systematically.

78. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 45, wherein each step is performed systematically.

79. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 47, wherein each step is performed systematically.